Geoscience in Wisconsin

WHAT IS GEOSCIENCE?

Geoscience is the study of the Earth and the complex geologic, marine, atmospheric, and hydrologic processes that sustain life and the economy. Understanding the Earth’s surface and subsurface, its resources, history, and hazards allows us to develop solutions to critical economic, environmental, health, and safety challenges.

By the numbers: WISCONSIN

- 4,756 geoscience employees (excludes self-employed)¹
- 772 million gallons/day: total groundwater withdrawal³
- $1.49 billion: value of nonfuel mineral production in 2017⁴
- 46 total disaster declarations, including 19 severe storm, 15 flood, and 4 snow disasters (1953-2017)⁶
- $12.4 million: NSF GEO grants awarded in Wisconsin in 2017¹⁴

WORKFORCE IN WISCONSIN

- 4,756 geoscience employees (excludes self-employed) in 2017¹
- $65,858: average median geoscience employee salary¹
- 22 academic geoscience departments²

WATER USE IN WISCONSIN

- 772 million gallons/day: total groundwater withdrawal³
- 4.98 billion gallons/day: total surface water withdrawal³
- 479 million gallons/day: public supply water withdrawal³
- 460 million gallons/day: water withdrawal for irrigation³
- 382 million gallons/day: industrial fresh water withdrawal³
- 72% of the population is served by public water supplies³

ENERGY AND MINERALS IN WISCONSIN

- $1.49 billion: value of nonfuel mineral production in 2017⁴
- Sand and gravel (industrial), stone (crushed), sand and gravel (construction): top three nonfuel minerals in order of value produced in 2017⁴
- 2.85 million megawatt hours: hydroelectricity produced in 2017⁵
- 1.53 million megawatt hours: wind produced in 2017⁵

NATURAL HAZARDS IN WISCONSIN

- 46 total disaster declarations, including 19 severe storm, 15 flood, and 4 snow disasters (1953-2017)⁶
- $127 million: individual assistance grants (2005-2017)⁶
- $64 million: mitigation grants (2005-2017)⁶
- 28 weather and/or climate events, each with costs exceeding $1 billion (inflation adjusted) (1980-2017)⁷

⁴ U.S. Geological Survey, Mineral Commodity Summaries 2018
⁵ U.S. Energy Information Administration
⁶ FEMA Data Visualization: Summary of Disaster Declarations and Grants (accessed May 2, 2018)
# Geoscience, Wisconsin, and Federal Agencies

## U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)
- $1.15 billion: total USGS budget in FY 2018 (5.8% increase from FY 2017)\(^8\)
- The National Cooperative Geologic Mapping Program funds geologic mapping projects with federal (FEDMAP), state (STATEMAP), and university (EDMAP) partners.
- $3.35 million: Wisconsin STATEMAP funding (1993-2016)\(^9\)
- University of Wisconsin at Eau Claire and University of Wisconsin at Madison have participated in EDMAP\(^9\)
- USGS streamgages collect real-time or recent streamflow, groundwater, and water-quality data in Wisconsin.

## National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
- $20.7 billion: total NASA budget in FY 2018 (5.5% increase from FY 2017)\(^10\)
- $1.9 billion: total NASA Earth Science budget in FY 2018 (0% change from FY 2017)\(^10\)
- Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment (GRACE) satellites measure groundwater changes in Wisconsin.
- Soil Moisture Active Passive (SMAP) satellite measures soil moisture in Wisconsin.

## National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- $5.9 billion: total NOAA budget in FY 2018 (4.1% increase from FY 2017)\(^11\)
- Next-generation geostationary (GOES) and polar orbiting (JPSS) satellites provide weather forecasting for Wisconsin.
- Deep Space Climate Observatory (DISCOVR) satellite monitors radiation and air quality over Wisconsin.
- 18 National Weather Service Automated Surface Observing Systems (ASOS) stations in Wisconsin\(^12\)
- 249 National Weather Service Cooperative Observer Program (COOP) sites in Wisconsin\(^12\)

## National Science Foundation (NSF)
- $7.8 billion: total NSF budget in FY 2018 (4% increase from FY 2017)\(^13\)
- $1.4 billion: total NSF Geosciences Directorate (GEO) awards in FY 2017 (7.2% increase from FY 2016)\(^14\)
- 41 NSF GEO awards in Wisconsin totaling $12.4 million in 2017\(^14\)
- $11 million: NSF GEO grants awarded to University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2017\(^14\)

## U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- $8.1 billion: total EPA budget in FY 2018 (0% change from FY 2017)\(^15\)
- 37 active Superfund sites in Wisconsin in 2018\(^16\)
- $14.4 million: Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) grants in Wisconsin in 2017\(^17\)
- $400,000: Brownfield cleanup grants awarded to Wisconsin in 2018\(^18\)

## Federal Facilities in Wisconsin
- USGS Wisconsin Water Science Center, Middleton
- USGS Upper Midwest Environmental Science Center, La Crosse
- USDA Forest Products Laboratory, Madison
- NSF IceCube - South Pole Neutrino Observatory, Madison

## Your State Source for Geoscience Information
Wisconsin Geological & Natural History Survey
3817 Mineral Point Road
Madison, WI 53705
https://wgnhs.uwex.edu/
608-262-1705

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\(^8\) U.S. Department of the Interior, FY 2019 Budget in Brief
\(^9\) U.S. Geological Survey, National Cooperative Geologic Mapping Program
\(^10\) National Aeronautics and Space Administration, FY 2019 Budget Estimates
\(^11\) National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, FY 2019 Bluebook
\(^12\) NOAA In Your State and Territory
\(^13\) U.S. House of Representatives, FY 2018 Omnibus Spending Bill (Division B) - Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2018
\(^14\) National Science Foundation, Budget Information System
\(^15\) U.S. House of Representatives, FY 2018 Omnibus Spending Bill (Division G) - Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2018
\(^16\) U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Superfund Sites
\(^17\) U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Drinking Water State Revolving Fund National Information Management System Reports
\(^18\) U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Brownfields Grant Fact Sheet Search

AGI’s Geoscience Policy and Critical Issues programs support well-informed public policy and decision making by providing information and facilitating dialogue between the geoscience community and decision makers at all levels.

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